

CANADIAN CAMPING

Official Publication of the Canadian Camping Association

Autumn, 1967



CENTENARY JOURNEY VOYAGE DU CENTENAIRE

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CANADIAN CAMPING

VOL. 20

AUTUMN, 1967

No. 1

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by Douglas G. McEwen
President

CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION COMES OF AGE

I would like to discuss three major areas of concern which I feel face our Association at the present time and must be dealt with within the next two years. These are:

1. *Services the Association must provide.*
2. *Internal organization of the Canadian Camping Association.*
3. *Relationships of the C.C.A. with kindred organizations and government.*

Association Services

With the adoption this year of a set of Desirable Practices, camps now have a guide from their camping association. This is just the first step. The following things are now required:

1. *Regular visitation of all camps through their Provincial Associations.*
2. *A shift of emphasis to training of leadership to assist camps to make sure that the experience they provide is more than just a safe one. In co-operation with universities or alone the development of a certification system by the C.C.A. of camp directors should be begun immediately.*
3. *Aggressive representation by the camping association to seek government assistance in facilities, health and sanitation, and camper assistance. Further assistance must be sought to conduct study and research in camping as an important educational and recreational program.*

Generally, other areas also need development:

1. *The Canadian Camping Magazine—my own judgment is that this is an excellent magazine, at present, designed for popular readership of camping personnel. I would suggest that C.C.A. also needs to find a means of publishing regularly research being done by camping people or even find the means by which research can be stimulated, aided and results shared among Canadian camps.*

Further, there seems to be a feeling that a wider readership is possible for the Canadian Camping Magazine by encouraging individual subscriptions as well as the automatic distribution through membership. This is a responsibility already assigned to the C.C.A.

- 2. Training programs—in addition to continuing training of leadership, as is the case with forthcoming regional training workshops sponsored by the C.C.A. with assistance of the National Fitness and Amateur Sport Branch, there needs to be more specialized training to meet specific needs of day camp personnel, church camp groupings, and private camp operators.*

Internal Organization

For the first 20 years of its life the Canadian Camping Association's strength has lain in strong provincial associations. There are many advantages to this. I would hope that this will continue. There is, in addition, an increasing role for the Canadian Camping Association to form liaisons with other National bodies and with the Federal Government, and an increasing need is becoming evident for a national office to be developed. More and more the need for a full-time executive officer has become apparent during the past four years while the C.C.A. executive has been in the Western Provinces. Because of the immense sacrifice of volunteer effort on the part of many people, much has been done. But much remains to be done.

In order to extend its services, strengthen the internal organization and represent the Canadian Camping Association in broader relationships, I feel that a full-time Executive Secretary should be employed and supported by necessary stenographic assistance.

Another internal problem of our Association is that at present the entire National Executive resides in Manitoba. This proximity of people ensures that a meeting can be called and run on short notice and at little or no expense. Information as to decisions about to be taken is shared with Provincial Associations but frequently no response from Provincial Associations is taken as assent and further many people are not consulted when such decisions are considered. Annually your Board of Directors meets and at that time the voice of each camp can be heard through the representatives of Provincial Camping Associations. Despite disadvantages which are inevitable from the point of view of cost, I believe that the time is approaching when your Board must meet at least quarterly in addition to regular meetings of a National Executive which is located either in one province or spread geographically across the country. Our history shows a very real sensitivity on the part of past National Executives to regional concerns but sensitivity is not enough for our Association to be effective. Representation of your concerns and communication between members and officers is necessary if the Association truly seeks to serve the needs of its members.

Another concern is that there are still camps and groups of camps who have not sought membership in the National Association. No Association exists in Saskatchewan, some camps in the Maritimes are not members of the Association and the French section of the Quebec Camping Association are still not members of the Canadian Association. Constructive steps should be taken as soon as

possible to give all camps in Canada the opportunity to participate in the affairs of our National Association which is increasingly speaking for all of Canadian camping.

Relationships

Camping is not a word that is clearly understood in the English language. The dictionary suggests that camping is "pitching tents and resting". To a family travelling from Toronto to Vancouver camping is one thing, to an operator of a trailer park, camping means something else; to an agency providing an experience for children, camping is something else again. Because we are called the Canadian Camping Association many people view us in many different ways. Even at the Symposium of Recreation in Montreal among a group of 25 people concerned with the use of leisure, the major issues raised by Kirk Wipper were not discussed because of an involved discussion that developed as to what was meant by the word, camping. The time has come for our Association to define itself to the public. Further, the question of relationship with groups doing "camping" must be studied and decided upon.

Another form of relationships is growing. The relationship is one between federal government and your Association. The Centenary Journey project, now in its final stages, received a grant of \$12,000.00 from the National Centennial Commission. Travel grants for members of the Board of Directors to attend Annual Meetings have been received from the Fitness and Amateur Branch of

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BUILDING SELF-CONFIDENCE

by Bruno Morawetz, Ph.D., Camp Ponacka

Lack of self-confidence is one of the most common characteristics both in youngsters and in adults. Whether it is as widespread in other civilizations as it is in ours I do not know, but among the hundreds of boys who have passed through my hands well over half suffer a severe lack of self-confidence and almost all of them greatly benefit from a booster shot. This is one area of personality growth where camps can provide important help.

Motivation Can Be Instilled

Self-confidence plays the same part in a human life which a spark plug plays in a gasoline engine. Everything can be in working order; tight piston rings, a correct mixture of fuel ready for explosion, a well tuned electrical system, but leave out the spark plug and the engine is no more than a lifeless piece of hardware. In the human being all ingredients may be present: a superior intelligence, a healthy physique, good muscular coordination, great talents—in short, all the elements for a successful life may be gathered in the individual. However, without the required degree of self-confidence none of these qualities is brought into play. Most persons will immediately attribute the stalemate to a lack of motivation, which is correct, but they fail to realize that motivation can not be instilled in a human being except through an increase in self-confidence.

Which camp director has not heard a mother say "John has a good I.Q. but he simply will not work" or "John

has a good build for swimming, but he won't try"? What the mother fails to realize is that John's lack of motivation is due to his lack of self-confidence.

Perhaps the experts in the field of psychology know exactly what causes lack of self-confidence; my guess is that it springs, to a large extent, from the child's relationship with one or both of his parents. In my experience, it is almost always the case that the father, who is a "big wheel", has boys who lack self-confidence. It could be that the father's status has in itself an intimidating effect on the boy. It could be that the father's efforts, expended on becoming and remaining a "big wheel", so absorb his time that there is little left over for his boy. Whatever the causes may be—I am sure they are more complex than I have made them appear—a good camp situation can do a great deal to supply the camper with the needed spark to help him unfold his hidden potential.

Make Him Aware

The basis of success will lie, no doubt, in making the camper aware of his own worth. Every aspect of the camp programme, every manner of dealing with him should contribute to that goal.

Long before he comes to camp this process can begin. The director can make the camper aware of his worth by writing him a personal letter upon registration and asking him to let the director know what he would like to do and accomplish at camp. This makes him

feel that he is not a parcel which is being wrapped up and sent away.

The moment of arrival at camp is of crucial importance. The first impact determines the camper's attitude for many days, if not for the period of his entire stay. There must be no moment during which the camper may wonder "Do they know I am coming? Do they know who I am? Do they know what group I am assigned to? Do they know I wanted Bill as my cabin mate?" The occasion for feeling perplexed and forlorn must be eliminated. If the campers arrive by bus it is a great mistake to have the bus disgorge its cargo all at once. It is much better, even if it takes longer, to have each camper alight singly and to introduce him to his counsellor who is waiting and ready for him. The counsellor, in turn, takes possession of his new charge, introduces himself and welcomes him to his group. This eliminates the agonizing despair of being unrecognized and the craning of necks in search of a familiar face. Such a reception will immediately create the feeling "here I really seem to count".

The first few moments in his new cabin are of equal importance. A boy will have a much greater sense of worth if his counsellor seems to know all about him. It is imperative that the cabin counsellor learn as much about his camper as possible. He should know not only such fundamentals as hometown, school and grade, age, etc., but he should also know about his hobbies, interests, musical talents, aptitudes, family circumstances, etc. Not only will the camper feel closer to his counsellor, but the counsellor's closeness toward his camper stands in direct relationship to the amount of knowledge he has about him. The camper will have a good deal more confidence in his counsellor if he is familiar with his circumstances and achievements. A proper and thorough briefing of each counsellor about each camper is an essential ingredient in making the camper aware of his own worth.

Attitude and Behaviour

The counsellor's attitude and behaviour has a great deal to do with the building of self-confidence. He need not possess outstanding qualities to do this. One of the essentials is that he be "always there". The counsellor who is "never there" is in fact saying "I don't give a tinker's damn about you", while the counsellor who spends a great deal of time with his campers proves that he really cares. The fact of "being there" is more important than what he does. Even if he reads or writes in his cabin he is spreading a re-assuring glow over his campers.

The child who lacks self-confidence often rightly suspects that his parents are not "really listening" to him. The counsellor who really listens — at all times, in all places, to all things—will greatly help in creating a sense of worth.

The organization of the programme can do a great deal for the building of self-confidence. Each learning situation should be based on the same principle which is employed by teaching machines. A machine requires of a student such a minute step forward that it will be almost always successful. A child lacking self-confidence is plagued with a sense of failure. As soon as he succeeds he will expend additional effort. Every activity can be taught in this way. In archery he moves close enough to the target to succeed in hitting it. In crafts he starts with a project where the results will be satisfactory. Perhaps most important is the first day swimming test. An alert instructor will watch the first movements in the water and as soon as he sees that the child could not possibly pass the test he urges him not even to try his test, but promises to assess his ability at a later time. The camper has thus not "failed" his deep water test.

No camp programme can be run without a certain degree of competitiveness. Competition is both good and bad.

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EXPERIMENT . . .

AN EDUCATIONAL CAMP

by Austin Matthews

During the month of June school children are often preoccupied with things other than school work—things like being outdoors, like running bare-foot through the sand, like taking hikes or having a swim. Based on this premise, it seemed desirable to try to introduce some of these free-time pursuits into a constructive educational experience by taking a class from school, along with the teacher, and transplanting them at our YMCA resident camp for a week.

Enthusiastic Support

With the enthusiastic support of the Midland Public School principals and the Public School Board, this idea was enlarged to include not just one class, but all the grade four children in the school system. (Grade four was selected, since these children were at the optimum and age for the kinds of program and instructional activities that were planned.)

The one hundred and seventy children were divided into three groups, each of which came to camp for five days — from Sunday noon to Friday noon — during June. Each group was accompanied by two teachers. During the organizational stage the teachers were given the task of designing the educational portion of the program and of recruiting sufficient high school volunteers to act as counsellors. The teachers were able also to secure volunteer nurses for each five day period. The camp assumed the responsibility for staffing and planning the recreational activities and for total organization and co-ordination of the project. For supervision of the recreational activities we were able to deploy the university stu-

dents who had been engaged to prepare the camp for the summer.

Program

Taking advantage of the out-of-doors setting, the teachers planned their curriculum around nature lore, camp craft, marine life, water safety, sketching, natural history, geography and archaeology. Many resourceful people were used to make these instructional times as meaningful as possible. Among these were a full-blooded Ojibway Indian, a representative of the Department of Lands and Forests, the Warden of the National Park, a high school geography teacher, a naturalist, a science teacher, etc. The possibilities for imaginative educational projects that would utilize the unique setting of a resident camp are so numerous that the teachers found that they could include in their five-day program only a fraction of the ideas that might have been used.

The operation of this kind of school camp has many important advantages. Many of our "school campers" would never be able to attend a regular camp because of registration fees being out of reach for the family. However, this school camp was totally sponsored by Midland Public School Board and, therefore, no fees were charged the individual camper.

Camping with the rest of the classmates and the teacher provides a child of this age with an excellent opportunity to adjust to being away from home for the first time. Homesickness, contrary to our expectations, did not prove to be a major factor. Since these nine year olds were in the company of school friends most of the latent homesickness tendencies were allayed. Doubt-

less this factor will favourably enhance the child's attitude towards camp and camping in future years—indeed towards all challenging and new experiences.

Values

Education includes more than absorbing facts. That is why this school camp project has many merits. A child's opportunity to experience group living, and the experience of sharing responsibilities for the neatness of cabin and camp, and the friendly competition in sport and water games, and just the opportunity to sit alone at the water's edge are of a much greater value in terms of character development and understanding, than would be the equivalent amount of time spent in a classroom in mid-June.

This school camp project has some inherent advantages to the camp as well. We are able to make additional use of our camp facilities which under normal circumstances would be used during July and August only.

The public relations value, resulting from the many press releases and the favourable reaction of children, parents and school officials, was enormous.

Because of the "school camp", we were able to provide longer and more meaningful employment for more staff people than would normally have been possible. Also we were able to observe in a practical counselling situation many high school students and this will enable us to make a more judicious selec-

tion of counsellors for our regular camps in future seasons.

Many factors were instrumental in contributing to the success of this school project. Most important was the total interest and support of the school officials—many of whom we invited on the project's planning committee. Another important factor was the personalities and adaptability of the teachers who went to camp. Many teachers could not have adjusted to this sort of situation; however, those that accompanied Midland's Public School Grade Four children were of the "very adaptable" variety. We found that early written communication to the parents was helpful in interpreting the aims of the project and in gaining broad parental support. We also followed this up with a mimeographed "camper's kit" of instructions for the children and a parents' night during which many questions were answered.

In summary this experiment was well received and, I think, was a valuable complement to the educational process. It was very advantageous to both the camp and the campers as outlined previously. And it unquestionably has unlimited possibilities for any communities, camps and school boards that are interested in an exciting and challenging educational experience.

Austin Matthews is the General Secretary of the Midland YMCA and Director of the Y's Camp Kitchikewana. He is currently on the Board of the Ontario Camping Association.

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AMONG OURSELVES

In reply to our request for information that could be used in this profile of a Provincial Association President, **Rev. Don Atkinson**, President of the Manitoba Association, sent us a lively and interesting response. As a matter of fact, it pleased us so much, we decided to pass it on practically as it came to us.

Born in Toronto in 1933, Mr. Atkinson attended Lawrence Park Collegiate. He took his B.A. at Victoria, class of 5T7 and his B.D. at Emmanuel College in the class of 1960.

"For a year after that I was part of a pilot experiment for two young ordinands called interning. We lived and worked out of Woodgreen Neighbourhood Houses in East Toronto, to learn the work of the inner-city first hand. After that I spent four years at United Mission in Sydney, N.S. and developed the art of keeping in just the right amount of trouble with Credit Unions, Co-ops, Labour Unions, the Political Party, Community Development and Adult Education. One of the interesting experiences was trying to develop a local chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. in the Negro ghetto in which the Mission is placed.

Camping in Nova Scotia was either the Fresh Air type—lots of food and lots of mountain or the Church type—'get them when they are quiet'. On January 1, 1966, I came to Winnipeg to Robertson Church and House and United Church Fresh Air Camps (a three ring circus). Our Camp offers a 20-bed hospital for convalescents, a facility for mothers and children camping and a camp for 80 children co-educationally.

Hobbies—my only one is going to movies and would you believe my favorite star is Bridgitt Bardot.

I served on the Training Committee of the Manitoba Camping Association last year and thought I would be on the Standards Committee only during 1967. I am neurotic; I cannot exist without my lists. Camp is reduced to charts and diagrams. Heavily impressed by Hedley Dimock at the Canadian Camping Association Conference we are introducing some measure of participatory camping at the camp this year. It ideally serves to train leaders from our local area to meet the needs of the kids from the same area and so functions as the means of community development. After a few more years, I shall let you know how that one works."



*Rev. Don Atkinson,
President, Manitoba Camping Association*

CANADA'S SECOND CENTURY

by Ann Prewitt

Ready or not, . . . Zoom! . . . Here we go, shot off into the unknown of the next hundred years of camping in Canada!

Four Questions

What is going to happen to our particular field of organized camping? And what has our past experience taught us that will be important to us in our immediate and distant future? Who?, What?, How?, and Where?

First of all **who** is going to be running our camps? Our past experience shows us that the Director is all-important in the character and conduct of each camp, and yet we still do not 'qualify' our directors in the excellent STANDARDS that have been worked out.

Perhaps we should end our indecision, and begin in a small way and work up from there. As it is now I could sell my camp to the local butcher tomorrow and he would carry on as

best he could. However, if we said that a camp director must have been an **active** member of the Camping Association for at least three years, we could then be somewhat sure that this new director was ready to enter the field.

Also it would be interesting and challenging for our local chapters to offer courses in Camp Directing to our more experienced counsellors. Such courses could be readily presented as our excellent STANDARDS again would prove to be a perfect outline for the development of lectures or informal talks. In this way the Canadian Camping Association could provide a list of available qualified candidates for the position of Assistant Director in Agency, Charity, or Private camps. Such courses alone would be bound to have a beneficial effect on all camps over a period of time.

WHAT is going to happen to our particular field of organized camping? This is a great big WHAT, but if you will bear with me a moment my crystal ball is clearing and many conflicting visions are starting to take shape.

An Old Conflict

There is one old conflict that is fortunately eroding away as the Camping Association matures and as Camp Directors realize that they are the guardians in trust of a vitally important part of a child's education. Instead of gearing camps to what parents want, most camps have now set up their programs so that they benefit the individual child. There is now a wealth of experience behind the camping movement and, as the two fields of education and camping merge, or veer towards each other in many respects, it will be the child of the future who benefits.

The Toronto Island School with its out-of-door teaching in a natural setting is an example of the field of Education entering the field of Camp-

ing. They take a different group of sixth graders for a week at a time (Monday through Friday) across the water to their Island School where they live and learn together. Many of these children are away from home for the first time.

Organized camps have grown larger, electricity, plumbing and sewage systems have been installed. Many little feet have trampled the new sprouts and the forest is pushed back for the larger games. Counsellor's automobiles are parked by their cabins. Campers learn about nature in a well set up Nature House with a few captive animals in cages. These camps veer closely to the school set-up. Such a camp could receive the highest score in a STANDARD's visitation, and would in fact be an excellent camp; yet the vital necessity of living close to nature has almost disappeared. Out-trips are the only answer for such a camp. But where to go?

WHERE to camp in the next hundred years? This is the biggest question of all.

Within the next twenty-five years established camps will be surrounded by cottages, perhaps villages or cities. Already in the U.S. some excellent camps in the east and in Minnesota and Wisconsin have become locked-in by civilization.

A Clearer Picture

In order to gain a clearer picture as to where to camp in the future I talked with William Hueston, Superintendent of Algonquin Park and Regional Forester of the Department of Lands and Forests for Ontario.

Dedicated men like William Hueston are well aware of the already severe problems of disappearing land for public use. Now 25% of the shore line of all lakes must be retained by the crown. This is a valuable protective measure even though many desirable sections, such as the whole Muskoka Lakes area, are already gone.

The Department has become aware of the increase in the hardier type of tripper. One who wants to test himself against the challenges of the far north or the thrills of rough water paddling. To meet the desires of these spirited souls the Department of Lands and Forests is setting up a number of "Wild River Parks".

These will be designated sections of rivers along whose shores no more Crown Land will be sold. Maps will be supplied and camping spots indicated. Also the rivers will be graded. Some will be for less experienced trippers while other fiercer rapids will be labeled "for experts only".

In the northern or middle sections of Ontario large areas are being set aside now and plans for their use are being made. In the crowded southern section the Department is buying land where it can, or obtaining easements in other cases.

The demand for public camping grounds grows steadily year after year, a 10% increase on a 10% increase. Trailers are taking precedence over tents and hauled motor-boats are growing in numbers and power. Mechanized and motorized camping by the public is here to stay and can only increase. Controls are inevitable, and the sooner the better if public lands are to survive the deluge. This is a 'must' as it is safe to say that the only camping property available in the future, other than privately owned land, will be Crown Land.

HOW is camping going to develop?

In the future there is bound to be an even greater diversification of specialty camps such as dancing camps or music camps. Camps for the handicapped will spread as well as the tendency of regular camps to include some handicapped children in their programs.

Some camps will offer accredited summer school courses.

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As part of our Outdoor Education project, I had planned to take a canoe journey with my fourth year graduating class in the School of Physical and Health Education, University of Toronto. The dates selected were May 8 - 10 and in honour of Centenary year the route of the Voyageurs, the Mattawa River.

With some misgivings, because of the extraordinary cold and unsettled weather, I agreed to go ahead with a fleet of ten canoes. When snow appeared on the branches of trees on the way to North Bay my apprehension increased. By taking a swollen stream from the Trans-Canada Highway to the Mattawa near Lac Talon, Trout Lake and a stiff north wind were avoided. This was a fortunate change of plans because the weather, already chilling and threatening, was obviously deteriorating.

A heavily balsam covered peninsula seemed a very inviting overnight place and the tents were pitched well back from the water's edge for warmth. Throughout the journey, soup and hot dishes were most welcome. Woollen blankets were placed inside the sleeping robes for warmth. This proved an excellent technique, although the twenty degree temperature really demanded Arctic robes which we just did not have.

The grey dawn found a number of figures dancing by a rather large bonfire on the bay side and soon a very substantial breakfast was under way. No sooner were the tents down than the snow came and it persisted clear to the Ottawa

PADDLES IN THE SPRING

Prelude to the Centenary Journey

by Professor Kirk A. Wipper,

*University of Toronto School of Physical and Health Education,
and Director—Camp Kandalore*

River at Mattawa town. Nonetheless, the river being in flood more than compensated for the driving snow. Rapids were frequent and in some places more than a little challenging. As trip leader, my great concern was not to capsize or flounder in the cold swift water. It is truly remarkable that not one canoe succumbed in that entire journey, although at one point before the Talon chutes every canoe arrived at the foot of the rapids with at least six inches of water in it.

When we became too damp from the snow and the rooster tails of the rapids, we stopped, built large bonfires and consumed soup and hot chocolate. On such occasions, socks and mitts and toques were dried (to grip the paddles under such weather conditions, it was necessary to wear socks or mitts to keep our hands from capitulating).

Among the many inspiring sights were the rushing spring waterfalls eagerly seeking to join the Mattawa—one of the special features of the early spring. On the final evening as we reached the historic junction of the Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers, the Church bells beside the river tolled. It was a touching and certainly memorable finale to an unusual journey. For the men who took part, it is inspiring to know that they were the first to be on the route of the Voyageurs, the National Centenary Route in 1967. The natives along the way perhaps regarded the project as a rather puzzling venture under such conditions.

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Sermons

Under the Sun †

Since this issue of "Canadian Camping" treads so closely on the heels of December and Christmas, "The Fourth Wise Man" seems an especially timely selection for this column. It is chosen from "SERMONS FROM A SUMMER CHAPEL" and is by ELAINE DECKER. "Sermons from a Summer Chapel" was designed to serve several purposes. Produced by the KITCHENER-WATERLOO YMCA Camping Department, "it records and preserves some of the original creative efforts of CAMP WABANAKI campers and staff as they have expressed their religious feelings and thoughts." Undoubtedly "Sermons from a Summer Chapel" is the kind of publication that other camps across the country would find both stimulating and useful.

We have all heard the story of the Three Wise men. I would like to tell you the story of Artaban, the other Wise Man. Upon seeing the great star, Artaban sold all his possessions for three precious gems and rode out to meet the other Magi at the Temple of the Seven Spheres.

A few hours from the rendezvous, Artaban came across a dying man. To stop and help meant he wouldn't reach the temple on time. But he did stop, and treated the man as only a great doctor could.

The Magi were gone but at the temple Artaban found orders to follow them across the desert. He returned to Babylon and sold his sapphire to buy goods for his journey. Months later he reached Bethlehem and, entering a house, he learned from the young mother that his King had been born in a stable but had since fled to Egypt.

At that moment soldiers of Herod appeared and demanded the possession of any newborn babies in the house. Artaban stood in the door, with a ruby in his hand, and said, "There are none here." The captain departed with the jewel.

So Artaban continued his search and the years passed.

As an old man he entered Jerusalem and asked where the people hurried. "To Golgotha, for the crucifixion."

Artaban's heart leaped. His King? Crucified! He hurried with the crowd, but he heard the screams of a girl, being dragged by soldiers. He stopped and asked her crime. "I am sold as a slave to pay my father's debts." His great opportunity or his last temptation? He took out his pearl, and paid the soldier.

Suddenly the sky darkened and the earth shook. Artaban fell to the ground and the spirit of God appeared to the dying man. "Your search has been long, but thrice have you loved your Lord." And Artaban's dreams were fulfilled. He had found his King.

Each one of us searching for our God. And what better place to find Him than right here at camp? Living in His beautiful world, with His children, and enjoying His great gift of life, we draw closer to Him.

And we can lay a gift at His feet. Love. In our actions and speech, we can remember what the Spirit said to Artaban. "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as thou has done it unto the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me."

Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank thee for thy many blessings.
Help us to serve thee, and live together as Christians,
Following the example of Thy Son
That one day we may achieve eternal life,
In Thy Heavenly Kingdom,
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

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The Federation of Catholic Charities, planning organization for the English-speaking Catholic community of Montreal, requires a DIRECTOR for one of its multi-function agencies.

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It is bad when campers of varied abilities are pitted against each other involuntarily and indiscriminately. The kind of competition which builds self-confidence is the one where a camper strives to reach a certain level of excellence. Failure to meet this standard is seldom public and never final.

The degree of compulsion in a camp programme will have a strong effect on the level of self-confidence. If a camper *must* be at an activity which he does not enjoy he feels more like a chattel than a human person. The camper who chooses all or most of his daily activities feels that he is the master of his destiny, a free individual and therefore fully human. The wise counsellor will help a camper find alternatives to shield him from camp-wide games in which his lack of co-ordination will make him a laughing stock. The alert counsellor will arrange special instruction in an activity for which the camper has a greater aptitude. Success in this activity (it could be a play, a musical talent, story telling) will bring recognition which in turn leads to greater self-confidence.

A Feeling of Worth

The feeling of worth will be promoted if everyone on the camp staff pays an inordinate amount of attention to the most trifling details. In the busy life of the counsellor the loss of a camper's knife or toothbrush may appear very insignificant. To the camper it may seem of over-riding importance. If the meal is late, if the sailboats are not available a proper explanation makes the camper feel that he is a person of worth. Each staff member should be alert to all signs of disenchantment and prepared to deal with them promptly and tactfully.

The prescriptions outlined here may appear to border upon the impossible. Admittedly, they make inordinate demands on the camp director and his

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the Department of National Health and Welfare and a sizeable grant has been received for the conduct of five regional training events from the same source. The C.C.A. has been invited to be a part of a technical sub-committee to the Advisory Council of Fitness and Amateur Sport and as such to submit plans for long range development to which the Federal Government might consider making grants. We are an organization worthy of support, funds are available, and it is now time for us to state clearly where we are going and what we are about.

In Conclusion

I am impressed that the Canadian Camping Association is a large organization representing a vital program for Canadians and I feel that we are confronted with great challenges which, when met, can mean improved standards of camping, better trained and qualified leadership in camps and a strong voice in councils planning to meet the needs of Canadians.

I am impressed that the time has come for your National Executive to assume a role of creative initiative. Shortly, you will receive several papers outlining proposed action by the Canadian Camping Association. Your reaction to these papers is important and should be communicated through your provincial association or directly to me as your President.

Finally, your executive is impressed that the C.C.A. is an association of members joined together for common purposes and hence that all of us as members must be concerned with and have a voice in policy and program. I, for one, look forward to the Association. —●

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CATHERINE VAN WAGNER

A TRIBUTE

by Paul Ross

For the first time since Camp Nominique was founded in 1925, Catherine Van Wagner, affectionately known by camper and staff member alike as Mrs. Van, had missed a camping season. Her death, on June 5, 1967, saddened the hearts of many hundreds of campers, for it was impossible for anyone at Nominique not to know and love her.

With her husband, F. M. Van Wagner, she shared the tremendous sense of purpose that has built Camp Nominique—to expose as many Canadian boys as possible to the joys of camping and canoe tripping, and to teach them to be “everywhere at home” in the out-of-doors.

Mrs. Van's greatest contribution was through the nature programme. She could usually be found near the Nature Cabin, and no matter what the time of day, she was invariably surrounded by eager, inquisitive campers of all ages. In her own quiet, sincere way, she taught many boys and counsellors more about Canada—her trees, flowers, birds and animals. It was never just facts that she passed on, but a love, an awareness and a quiet feeling of pride in our natural resources. Her contribution was identified with all that

camping stands for—adventure, challenge, pride in skills and knowledge, and a rewarding sense of accomplishment. But most of all, she conveyed a tremendous *joie de vivre*, an unbounded love of life, a great infectious enthusiasms for all that is simple, unspoiled and beautiful.

Unlike so many who believe strongly in something, Mrs. Van never tried to impose her beliefs on anyone. She served rather to help those fortunate enough to know her to find the richness and true beauty of God's creation for themselves.

Even in her absence, Mrs. Van was very much a part of the 1967 summer. Her example has left so many Nominique campers, past and present, with a far deeper awareness of all that good camping means. Those who are no longer active in camping still remember what she gave them. Those who remain at Nominique remember too, and are doing their best to pass on their knowledge and appreciation of Canada's lakes and forests to newer generations.

The Nature Cabin is not a passive memorial to Mrs. Van, but a living collection of mosquitoes, mice, rabbits, snakes, toads, tadpoles, flowers and bits

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of foliage; and, at any minute, another camper is bound to appear with something else he has discovered on camp property or on a recent canoe trip.

The most peaceful and meaningful moments of the 1967 season were spent in the camp's simple outdoor chapel when, nestled among the birches and overlooking the lake, we sang the familiar words of Mary Edgar's hymn that we so identify with Catherine Van Wagner and the unspoiled Canada that she taught us to love.

God who touchest earth with beauty
Make me lovely too,
With thy spirit recreate me,
Make my heart anew.

Editor's Note: Each year, as Camping Conference season in Toronto or Montreal drew near, "Mr. and Mrs. Van." renewed very warm friendships with many of the delegates from across Canada. Through the years together they have strengthened and broadened the development of the Canadian Camping Association, devoting time, thought and energy to camping standards and health and safety as they emphasized the importance of good staff and their influence on campers of any age. Catherine was an eager supporter of Canadian Camping Magazine, and contributed articles of a lasting nature which can be found in issues of other years and used to advantage today. Until two years ago, she was Editorial Representative for the Quebec Camping Association, motivating and encouraging her camping associates to write for us for the benefit of our readers. Your Editorial Committee will feel the loss of one of its most loyal members, and extends sympathy to "Mr. Van." —●

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staff. However, since the building of self-confidence is of greater importance than any other facet of camp life, it seems highly appropriate to subordinate all aspects of camp life to it.

NEWS from Quebec

Frances M. Kelly, Executive Secretary of the Quebec Camping Association Inc. sends us this advance word of their Conference to be held March 14, 15 and 16, 1968 at the Windsor Hotel in Montreal. It is to be held jointly by the English and French sections of the Association and will be bilingual with simultaneous translation throughout the entire programme.

Mr. Robert Lazanik will be Chairman of the English Section and the Rev. Pere Lionel Perras, Chairman of the French Section.

When we have further details, we'll share them with you.

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Active Members

There is no reason why all of these camps and many others as yet undeveloped should not become active members in the Canadian Camping Association and mutually be of benefit to each other so long as they offer each camper an opportunity to get back to nature and to learn to handle himself capably close to mother earth. He should have an opportunity to refresh his spirit and drink deep of the peace and silence in the woods. For this is camping.

No matter how you slice it you can't cut out the core of camping. Camping will always be living close to nature with a minimum of gear and a maximum of spirit and know-how.

As organized camping creeps closer and closer to the field of education the challenge will be to determine what we have that is so valuable to the growth and development of a child.

Perhaps . . . who knows? . . . we may swing full cycle to the thinking of some of the original founders of camps. Fannie L. Case who started Camp Northway Lodge in 1906 wrote . . .

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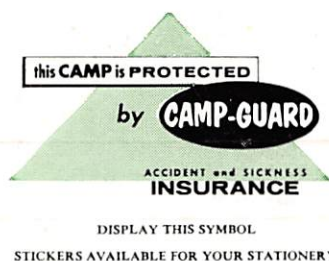
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